

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 498

By Turner J

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Dr. Brenda Partee Morris on being recognized as a 2013 Woman of Excellence by the *New Tri-State Defender*.

WHEREAS, throughout the years, women in Memphis, Tennessee, have been leaders in the areas of civic responsibility, business endeavors, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, for the past five years, the *New Tri-State Defender*, a Memphis-based newspaper, has honored over two-hundred and fifty outstanding African-American women as part of its "Women of Excellence" annual presentation; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 selection of honorees includes fifty such women, who have achieved success as executives, business owners, community leaders, ministers, non-profit executives, media personalities, physicians, educators, and role models in their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, these honorees were chosen from among 100 nominations, based upon proven success within their profession or industry, and upon their efforts to encourage others while remaining highly active in community service and organizational involvement; and

WHEREAS, one honoree is Dr. Brenda Partee Morris, an anesthesiologist who has led many community health care and cultural efforts, including the Healthy Memphis Common Table; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Morris has also served as Chair of the University of Memphis Center for Research on Women and Regional Economic Development Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Morris is deeply involved with the community and has served as Co-Chair of the fundraising events for the Heart Gala and the Latino Festival; and

WHEREAS, she is also a member of the 2002 Leadership Academy and Class of 2001 National Kidney Foundation of West Tennessee, and co-chaired the latter organization's fundraising event for 2000; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Morris is a graduate of Meharry Medical School in Nashville; she performed her residency training in anesthesia at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and The MED; and

WHEREAS, from 1986 to 2004, she was a member of the medical staff of Methodist Healthcare Systems where in addition to administering anesthesia, she mentored, trained and supervised medical residents, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and allied health profession students and worked with middle and high school students who had health care career interests; and

WHEREAS, after two decades of clinical practice, Brenda began her career in administrative medicine when she became Assistant Medical Director of Clinical Regulatory Affairs at the Regional Medical Center (The MED) ; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure there, she worked on behalf of The MED to address the problems limited-English-proficient patients have with getting access to health care; as a result of her efforts, The MED was awarded a \$1 million Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to address the community health care disparities arising from language barrier issues among the Latino population in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, from 2001 to 2003, she authored the Robert Wood Johnson grant application and then promoted the development of a business plan and its implementation; and

WHEREAS, she organized meetings among health care organizations and educational institutions to create partnerships, organized a foundation site visit, and secured the involvement of more than 40 major community partners in the effort, including corporations, academic groups, health care institutions, politicians, and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brenda Partee Morris is fortunate to share love and companionship with husband, Herman Morris, and their three children, Amanda, Patrick, and Geoffrey; and

WHEREAS, the Sixth Annual *New Tri-State Defender's* Women of Excellence awards will be celebrated on April 27, 2013, at the Memphis Botanic Gardens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Dr. Brenda Partee Morris on being recognized as a 2013 Woman of Excellence by the *New Tri-State Defender*, commend Dr. Morris, along with the other forty-nine phenomenal women who were chosen as this year's honorees, for her unwavering commitment and dedication to the highest principles of service and leadership, and wish this exceptional lady all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixth Annual *New Tri-State Defender's* Women of Excellence celebration be honored for shedding light on the contributions of Memphis area women whose lives and careers have had a positive impact on others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.